

BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 17.03.00
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES
EFFECTIVE: AUGUST 1, 1999
REVIEW: AUGUST 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004

1. POLICY. Persons who require emergency psychiatric services shall be directed to an approved care facility to provide such treatment.
2. PURPOSE. To establish procedures and provide guidance whereby persons needing emergency psychiatric services can be directed to an authorized facility.
3. PROCEDURE.
 - A. Members of the Beaverton Police Department shall take into custody any mentally disturbed person who is dangerous to himself or another, in accordance with the provisions of ORS 426.215. Every effort will be made to perform this duty in a manner which will best insure the subject's safety, and the least effect to his/her disturbed condition.
 - B. The nature of mental illness is such that it shall be treated with every reasonable precaution to prevent injury to the disturbed person or another.
 - C. Oregon Revised Statute 426.215 states in part "Any peace officer may take into custody any person who he has reasonable cause to believe is dangerous to himself or to any other person, and who he had reasonable cause to believe is in need of immediate care for treatment for mental illness and is exempt from criminal or civil liability pursuant to this section providing he acts in good faith on probable cause and without malice.
 - D. Responsibility for Personal Property. At the time a person is taken into custody for evaluation or within a reasonable time thereafter the officer taking him into custody shall take reasonable precautions to preserve and safeguard the personal property in the possession of or on the premises occupied by the person. The officer taking him/her into custody shall furnish to the court a report generally describing the person's property so preserved and safeguarded and its disposition, except that if a responsible relative or the guardian or

conservator of the person is in possession of the person's property. The report shall include only the name of the relative, guardian or conservator and the location of the property, whereupon responsibility of the officer taking him into custody for such property shall terminate. Responsible relative includes the spouse, parent, adult child, adult brother or sister of the person, except that it does not include the person who applied for the petition under the law.

E. Summary. The following steps shall be followed in providing psychiatric emergency service:

1. Call received from the Communications Center to scene of emergency.
2. Officer evaluates person to decide:
 - a. If a police officer hold is necessary as a result of mental illness, dangerous to self or others, or inability to care for themselves (Section 14 ORS 426.215(1)), or
 - b. No hold necessary, in which case an incident report will be completed and forwarded to County Mental Health Department.

F. In the event that a person is taken into custody under emergency commitment authority, the person shall be immediately transported to an approved care facility for evaluation.

G. A person who is taken into custody on a police hold who displays violent tendencies shall be transported by ambulance. The investigating officer will accompany the ambulance in his/her patrol vehicle.

H. The officer taking custody of a person shall cause the appropriate hospital to be notified they are in route and the approximate time of arrival.

I. Upon arrival at the care holding facility, the Officer shall stand by while an evaluation is conducted and if determined that the person is to be admitted, the Officer shall complete the "Notice of Mental Illness Police Officer Hold" form (MDH 309-19) in duplicate leaving the original copy with the hospital.

If the person is not found by the examining physician to be in need of immediate care for mental illness, the office shall make an arrest if charges

are present, or with the subjects permission, return him to the original place of custody or some other consented location within the city limits.

K. Members shall complete an Incident of facts on which the custody was based, and shall cause a copy of the report to be forwarded to Washington County Mental Health.

L. Members shall complete an incident report on persons contacted that do not fall within the emergency commitment authority but are obviously mentally disturbed, and shall cause a copy of the report to be forwarded to the Washington County Mental Health Department.

M. Members will assist concerned family members, spouses and friends regarding a mentally disturbed person by referring them to a mental health assistance agency (i.e., Washington County Mental Health, Metro Crisis Intervention Service).

Chief of Police

Date